

Public Sector SAFETY REPORT

Public Sector Enforcement Activity

During the period January through March 2001:

- Ninety-eight (98) public sector employers received citations and penalties for violations of occupational safety and health regulations. Most of the \$63,815.00 in penalties was used to correct the hazards.
- Lack of respiratory protection and firefighter training and training records were the most commonly cited violations.
- One willful penalty of \$10,000 was assessed for lack of eye and face protection.

Changes to Maine Child Labor Laws

Changes to Maine child labor laws may affect public sector organizations that employ teenagers. For more information, contact the Wage and Hour Division at 624-6400. TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing): 1-800-794-1110.

Minors Prohibited from Working at Fire Scene

New child labor rules will prohibit minors under 18 years old from working at the scene of a fire, explosion or other emergency situation except as follows:

Paid and volunteer junior firefighters who are 16 or 17 years old may:

1. Attend and take part in supervised training;
2. Participate in fire department functions within the rehabilitation area;
3. Pick up hose and clean up at the fire scene after the On-Scene Commander has declared the scene safe;
4. Enter a structure that has been on fire when deemed safe by the On-Scene Commander and accompanied by a firefighter;
5. With proper training, fight grass fires not involving standing timber; and
6. Perform search and rescue activities, other than structural firefighting.

They may not:

1. Perform fire suppression involving structures, vehicles, or wildland fires; except grass fires not involving standing timber;
2. Operate a fire department vehicle;
3. Respond with red lights;
4. Perform firefighting "overhaul" activities;
5. Respond to hazardous material events;
6. Perform any activity, except training, that involves the use of self-contained breathing apparatus;
7. Respond to any accident involving fire or extraction activities involving motorized vehicles (referred to as "1055's");
8. Respond to "ice rescue" activities, except within the rehabilitation area; or
9. Perform traffic control activities.

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://janus.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided upon request.

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

Public Sector S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Spring 2001

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees on safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster_bls@state.me.us. TTY 1-800-794-1110.